

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 21, line 6 as follows:

In the construction of ~~FIG. 3~~ FIG. 8, there is a possibility that a quantum well may be formed in the optical absorption layer 3a due to the extremely small thickness of the layer 3a of about 10 nm. In the case of the present embodiment in which the optical absorption layer 3a has a thickness of 50 nm, there is no possibility of quantum well formation in the optical absorption layer 3a. Because the possibility of quantum well formation is thus positively excluded, no quantum levels are formed in the optical absorption layer 3a and the problem of the absorption wavelength of the layer 3a causing a shift in the short wavelength direction as a result of such quantum level formation is successfully and positively avoided.